makes a reference to some previous tenders and the procedure being followed to procure banknote paper.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given an indent to produce and supply 15.8 billion pieces, 16.8 billion pieces and 16.2 billion pieces of banknotes during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. It is not possible at this time to indicate the revenue implication or the number of overseas companies since the same would depend upon the response received to global bids to procure banknote paper and other raw materials.

(d) It is stated that the Government is concerned about counterfeiting of Indian currency notes and all efforts are being made to make the task of counterfeiters as difficult as possible. It is further stated that all transactions relating to printing of banknotes are being carried out in a transparent manner keeping in view, the national security considerations.

Representation from Zinc Metal Industries

2695. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from zinc metal producing industries;

(b) if so, what are their problems; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In their representation, the zinc metal producing industries have requested for reduction of import duty on zinc. In their post-budget (2002-03) representation, restoration of the basic customs duty on Zinc to the pre-budget level of 35% and reduction of the customs duty on zinc concentrates to 0% have been requested.

(c) The representation are dealt with, in accordance with the existing instructions and policies of the Government. During the Budget 2002-03, basic customs duty on non-ferrous metals was reduced as per Government's policy, to attain a two rate custom duty structure (10% and 20%) by 2004-05 and basic custom duty on zinc was reduced from

35% to 25%. The import duty on zinc concentrate of 5% is the lowest non-zero rate and no change is considered due to large duty differential between the zinc metal and zinc concentrate.

Restoration of Section 10(20A) of I.T. Act

2696. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been submitted to Government for restoration of Section 10(20A) of the I.T. Act in view of the inevitable requirement for promoting investment in infrastructure by the Urban Development Authorities, Housing Boards etc. which has been withdrawn by Government;

(b) whether Government would reconsider the matter and restore the relevant Section in the I.T. Act; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is not under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Notices issued to defaulters by Banks

2697. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked banks to submit status reports on the notices issued to defaulters in the case of non-performing assets; and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to recover the loans advanced during the last 10 years which have not been repaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.